

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 23, 2000 LB 1243

just much more profound though, because it deals with children and the school districts. It's a huge amount of money. So what I want to do, and if I can't do it all in five minutes, punch back in, some of the basics. When people talk about a percentage increase, at least for a substantial number of members, that is a percentage of the state appropriation, in other words the money that we appropriate out, which is probably, I don't know, 130-some million, 133 million. The number is a ballpark figure. That's what we appropriate right now for space...Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Bohlke, did you wish to respond to the...I think that was an obvious question?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, 132.50 million, correct.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Now that's a separate appropriation of money that we send. That is not when people talk about state aid to schools and TEEOSA money, this is an additional fund of money that we spend for schools in the form of aid, it's reimbursement. The school districts spend the money first, they say here within the law is things that we can get our...we can get reimbursed for. So when you talk about 83 and 86 percent, that's of the amount of money that they've spent that we're reimbursing them for. So they eat some of those costs. Now when we increase by 5 percent, that means that the amount of money that we're going to put into special education is going to increase by 5 percent; won't do it the first year because we're in the last year of a biennial budget, but...so it will be a couple million dollars this year, the next year, given the present cost, that will be \$5.5 million impact onto the state budget. It's more money we're going to put in outside of state aid to schools for schools to have reimbursement. Is that...and Education Committee is Chinese to me every once in a while, but is that a basic understanding of the...

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Senator Kristensen, and it's a very, very accurate description of how the costs will be in the future and what obligation we have, the school districts have.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: And so when people begin to make these funding decisions, if you're going to spend \$2.5 million this